

Comments on the valid name for the butterfly known as '*Colias alfacariensis* Ribbe, 1905' or '*Colias australis* Verity, 1911' (Insecta, Lepidoptera)

(Case 2617; see BZN 45: 29–32)

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The authors are incorrect in their interpretation (BZN 45: 30, para. 5) of the expression 'a number of individuals within a species' in the Code definition of 'aberration': it applies to a population as to any other set of individuals.

The names *alfacariensis* Ribbe, 1905 and *australis* Verity, 1911 are both unavailable, and it is up to the authors to find the first available use of *alfacariensis* or *australis*.

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(1) Ribbe (1905, p. 137) described a new 'Form' [sic] of *Colias hyale* from Andalusia but unfortunately the 'ab.' in the name *Colias hyale* ab. *alfacariensis* formally renders the name unavailable under Article 45f(ii) of the Code, although 'Form' denotes a subspecies (Article 45g(ii)).

(2) On the other hand, following German linguistic usage, it is quite clear that Ribbe was not describing an aberrant or seasonal morph, but stated clearly that the taxon was characteristic of a particular geographical area. In the contemporary literature the use of 'var.', 'form' and 'ab.' was not clearly differentiated. In 1906 (p. 134) and 1907 (p. 89) Ribbe himself mentioned '*Colias hyale* v. *alfacariensis*', but unfortunately he did not refer to his 1905 description and thereby make the name available.

(3) Verity's 1911 (p. 347; cf. BZN 45: 30, para. 6) description of the 'race' *australis* from Andalusia appeared in January 1911; in October his Index Systématique (p. xxxiv) explicitly showed that the word 'race' was to be interpreted as infrasubspecific (see BZN 45: 30, para. 8). Entirely formally, *australis* could be held to be available from January 1911. Whether available or not, it is now evident that *alfacariensis* and *australis* are synonyms for a distinct species of butterfly (Berger, 1944, 1945), known in English as Berger's Clouded Yellow.

(4) Considered from their intentions, it is quite clear that Ribbe (1905) wanted to describe a 'Form' or 'Varietas' (subspecies) whereas Verity (1911) was describing what in his view was an infrasubspecific taxon.

(5) Verity (1916, p. 99) described and gave the name *calida* to the *Colias hyale* of the summer generation (only) from Tuscany; from taxonomic considerations it is known that he was dealing with *Colias alfacariensis/australis*. In 1923 Verity & Querci (1923, p. 15) applied '*Colias hyale*, L., race *calida*, Vrtty.' to specimens of both generations, and the name *calida* Verity, 1916 is available under Article 45 of the Code (see Cockayne, 1952, p. 166), or from Verity & Querci, 1923, under Article 10c. It would be destabilizing to use this name for the entire species.

(6) Bubaček (1924, p. 23) differentiated '*Colias hyale* v. *alfacariensis* Ribbe' of Andalusia from the 'Nominatform'. Under Article 45g(ii) this can make *alfacariensis* Ribbe, 1905 available as from its original publication for a 'Form' even if the 'content of the work' [the use of 'ab.', but not the meaning] had given it infrasubspecific rank. Even if this were held not to be so, *C. alfacariensis* would be available under Article 10c as from Bubaček, 1924, but to cite this authorship and date would be wholly artificial.

(7) We contend that *Colias alfacariensis* Ribbe, 1905, *C. australis* Verity, 1911 (January) and *C. calida* Verity, 1916 can be considered available under the Code.

(8) As noted in BZN 45: 30, para. 9, lectotypes of both *C. alfacariensis* Ribbe, 1905 and *C. australis* Verity, 1911 have been designated, although that of the latter has disadvantages (the original specimens of Verity include *C. hyale* as well as *C. australis*; their origin is doubtful and they do not agree with Spanish specimens).

(9) To assure a consensus in the use of the name for this taxon, we therefore request the Commission, using its plenary powers where necessary, to declare that:

- (1) the name *alfacariensis* Ribbe, 1905, as published in the combination *Colias hyale* ab. *alfacariensis*, is an available name;
- (2) the name *australis* Verity, 1911, published as a race of *Colias hyale hyale*, is not an available name;
- (3) the name *calida* Verity, 1916, as published in the combination *Colias hyale calida*, is an available name.

Additional references

- Bubaček, O. 1924. Über eine Lepidopterenausbeute aus Andalusien. *Verhandlungen der Zoologisch-Botanischen Gesellschaft in Wien*, 73: 22–24.
- Cockayne, E.A. 1952. *Colias calida* Verity: the correct name for the butterfly lately added to the British list. *The Entomologist's Record and Journal of Variation*, 64: 166–168.
- Ribbe, C. 1906. Eine Sammelreise nach Süd-Spanien. *Insekten-Börse, Leipzig*, 23: 134.
- Ribbe, C. 1907. Eine Sammelreise nach Süd-Spanien. *Insekten-Börse, Leipzig*, 24: 88–89.
- Verity, R. 1916. The British races of butterflies: their relationships and nomenclature. *The Entomologist's Record and Journal of Variation*, 28: 98–99.
- Verity, R. & Querci, O. 1923. Races and seasonal polymorphism of the Gypocera and of the Rhopalocera of peninsular Italy. *The Entomologist's Record and Journal of Variation*, 35 (supplement): 1–21.

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I cannot see any evidence in this application that I have not written about previously (Kudrna, 1982). The name *Colias alfacariensis* Berger, 1948 is the oldest available name for the species. I see no reason for bending the rules to attribute the authorship to the (supposed) original discoverer — after all, it was Berger (or rather Berger & Fountaine) who discovered the species.

Reference

- Kudrna, O. 1982. On the nomenclature of *Colias alfacariensis* Berger, 1948 (Lepidoptera: Pieridae). *Journal of Research on the Lepidoptera*, 20: 103–110.